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The Silent Victory

Duncan Grinnell-Milne

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- Title:** *The Russian Revolution.* 301 p.
- Author:** Moorehead, Alan. New York, Harper, 1958.
- Evaluation:** Written in a clear, orderly manner, this story on the nature of the Bolshevik rise to power in Russia holds the reader's interest from beginning to end. The main emphasis is oriented towards the individuals involved, and their relationship to each other, in the origin and growth of the Communist Party. From a setting showing the conditions in Russia under the Czars of the late nineteenth century, this book briefly describes the effects of the important events in Russian history, such as the assassination of Alexander II, the Revolution of 1905, and the First World War, and their consequences — which led to a weak central government. Under such conditions, the assumption of power by the professional revolutionaries was politically easy; but only by terrorism and violence could they maintain their grasp. The author contends that the Germans played an important role in bringing Lenin and the Bolsheviks to power, and makes it clear that the revolution itself was not quite the uncorrupted epic the Communists have made it out to be. By the time the Bolsheviks had essentially completed their seizure of control by the brutal breaking-up of the Russian Constituent Assembly, the wheel had almost turned the full cycle from Nicholas to Lenin, from autocracy back to autocracy. The Bolsheviks had now betrayed, or were about to betray, nearly every political slogan that had brought them to power. They had promised freedom to the individual and, instead, had censored the press, forbidden strikes, and set up a secret police. Also, they had cried for a freely elected Constituent Assembly —and now they had abolished it by force. The author's stated purpose was to make available to the general reader a book with a dispassionate and objective description of a great political upheaval. A discerning reader must inevitably reach the conclusion that the present-day techniques of the Communist leaders differ little in pattern from those of the Bolshevik leaders forty years ago.

- Title:** *The Silent Victory.* 206 p.
- Author:** Grinnell-Milne, Duncan. London, The Bodley Head, 1958.
- Evaluation:** *The Silent Victory* is the story of Germany's preparations to invade England in the summer of 1940 and the deterrents to this mission. Mr. Duncan Grinnell-Milne has documented his book with extracts from many authori-

tative sources — including Hitler's two directives for invasion preparations, which are quoted in full. The theme of the book is that the Royal Navy was the dominant deterrent factor which prevented the invasion attempt. Apparently many other authors have argued that the British Fighter Command played the dominant role. Mr. Grinnell-Milne goes into great detail and often excessive repetition to disprove this theory, and to plead his case for the role of the Royal Navy and the importance of control of the seas.

- Title:** *The Soviet Cultural Scene, 1956-1957.* 300 p.
- Authors:** Laqueur, Walter Z., and Lichtheim, George, eds. New York, Praeger, 1958.
- Evaluation:** A compilation of essays selected from the monthly review, *Soviet Survey*, a periodical that has been published by the Congress for Cultural Freedom since 1956. The essays deal with many aspects of cultural life in the Soviet Union and the Communist Bloc nations. Written during, and designed to cover, the period of the now famous "Thaw" subsequent to the report to the XXth Party Congress, the book represents a substantial contribution to studies of Soviet motivations and Soviet concepts of government control. The book utilizes exclusively Soviet and East European sources of material, and provides considerable insight into the struggle being waged behind the Iron Curtain effectively to control a vast network of countries. The highlights of the book are contained in the last four chapters (27 through 30). In reading these chapters, we are further enlightened on the crises of Stalinism, the Polish uprising, and the Hungarian revolt.

- Title:** *The Great Arms Race.* 116 p.
- Author:** Baldwin, Hanson W. New York, Praeger, 1958.
- Evaluation:** The author presents a thorough analysis of the comparative military power of the United States and the Soviet Union, primarily from the weapons systems aspect and, to some extent, the application of those systems. He concludes with a discussion of the future position of the United States in relation to Russia in the great arms race.

PERIODICALS

- Title:** *What is Indirect Aggression?*